

KIRITAKA English Journal Vol.5

~ Stay Independent, Stay as ONE TEAM ~ Jan. 26th, 2022

Embarrassing stories while traveling abroad <Part 2>

The following is a real dialog between my wife and me on an aircraft bound for Switzerland while we were traveling on our honeymoon (just after our wedding)! It was my wife's first time flying. (Our conversation was in Japanese.)

<Just after takeoff>

My wife: It was raining heavily on our way to Narita, wasn't it?

Toru(me): Yes, it was. We're already unlucky even though our trip has just begun!

My wife: Look outside! It's so nice! I'm very happy to see such nice weather above the clouds!

Toru (me): What do you mean? You said there's nice weather above the clouds, didn't you?

My wife: Yeah! You can see there's no clouds and that the sun is shining above the clouds!

Toru(me): Please be quiet! We're being laughed at by other passengers!!! It is natural that there's no clouds above the clouds, because we're flying above the clouds!!! Can you understand???

My wife: Oh right!!! Sorry!!! I'm so embarrassed!!!



<The first meal on the aircraft>

My wife: What are these on the lunch tray? (Look at the photo on your right. They are in the same shape of the one in the photo, but two of them in the same shape are combined.)

Toru(me): Look at the letters on the top! One of them is "S", and the other is "P". You can guess from the shape of the containers. They will be poured into coffee after lunch. So, one should be "sugar", and the other should be "milk"!

My wife: The letter for "milk" should be "M", not "P"!

Toru(me): Yes, of course! Probably, it is one of the Japanese English expressions. Officially, they call it "powder" instead of the word "milk". "Milk" probably means "liquid milk"! Shall we try both of them? (Then, I poured "S" and "P" into coffee. I saw some powder floating on the surface of coffee, but I didn't care about it and drank my coffee.)

Toru(me): Wooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo! (I almost spat out what I had just drunk.) You must not drink this!!!

My wife: Please be quiet! We're being laughed at by other passengers!!! You're also embarrassed!

Toru(me): Why this shape???"Salt" and "Pepper" shouldn't be put into a container like this!!!



★T's Power Song★

This song reminds me of my high school days. When I was a high school student, KIRITAKA used to be a boys' only school. We rarely had a chance to talk with girls, so it was very difficult to even make friends with girls. One day, I saw a girl in the city library, and I fell in love with her at first sight. Since then, my high school days became so much brighter, even though I couldn't speak to her. Is your school life also "Kira Kira" like this song?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8m5J78O-Hvk>

Today you cannot go abroad easily because of COVID-19, but I would like you to go abroad after you graduate from high school if possible! You'll probably experience a lot of troubles abroad like me, but they'll give you the feeling that you are living on this planet with billions of other people; the world is huge and there're so many things you don't know! The embarrassment and experiences you gain abroad can be said to be the "medal" awarded for your brave deeds! I hope the KIRITAKA English Journal will be accepted by students and their parents! (Toru Hoshino)



Kiwi Corner



Welcome back to school everyone! Did you have a relaxing winter break? I hope you managed to stay warm and eat lots of delicious food! We have now begun the third and final term of the school year. It's already that time of the year!

Are you ready? Let's go!

Starting the **last** term at the **beginning of 2022** is very interesting for me. Why? Of course you know that in Japan, the school year goes from April until March. And in previous Kiwi Corner articles, I have mentioned how the seasons in New Zealand are opposite to those of Japan. New Zealand's school year, on the other hand, actually starts in **January** and ends in **December**. Don't you think this is easy to remember??



My school in New Zealand: Tauranga Boy's College



Summer holiday in New Zealand

So right now, students in New Zealand have just finished their summer holiday, which for senior high school students usually goes from early December until late January. And because it is a holiday between school years, we aren't given homework!

As you can see, there are four terms in New Zealand, while Japan has only three. This means that on top of the Spring/Summer/Winter vacations that Japan has, we also have a two-week-long vacation in Autumn!

	Japan	New Zealand
Term 1	April - July	January - April
Term 2	August - December	May - July
Term 3	January - March	August - October
Term 4		November - December

Which system do you think is better? Having shorter terms and more holidays like in New Zealand? Or do you think it's nice to start the school year with the blooming sakura like in Japan? I think Japan's school term system is unique, so I find it particularly interesting.

Anyway, I hope you enjoyed this issue of Kiwi Corner! See you next time!

(Liam Campbell)